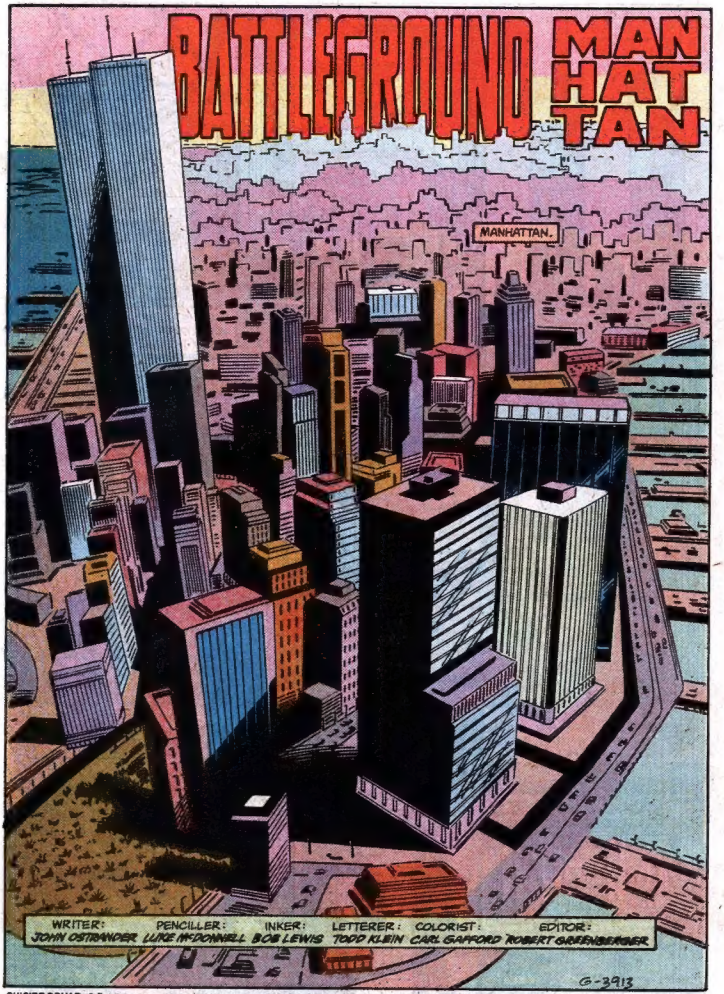
OSTRANDER, McDONNELL & LEWIS
SUICIDE SQUAD
17
$1.00
CAN. $1.35
U.K. 50p
SEPT. 88
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
THE JIHAD IS BACK AND THE SUICIDE SQUAD IS GOING T
THROUGH I SAY RE THROUGH!
I'M NOT YO OFFICER, I YOUR SOCIAL AND I DON'T HAV BE NICE TO YOU
EVER SINC KARIN S
SS



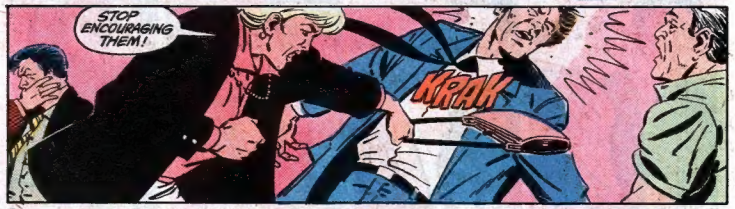
SUICIDE SQUAD 17 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUICIDE SQUAD, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1981, New York, NY 10185. Annual subscription rate $12.00. Outside U.S.A. $14.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright © 1988 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company

MECCA TO SOME.
SODOM TO OTHERS.
Coca-Cola
Castro
THERE IS POWER IN THIS CITY TO BE HAD, POWER OVER THOUGHTS AND IDEAS AND HOW THEY ARE COMMUNICATED.
YOU WOULD NOT THINK, TO LOOK AT IT, THAT IT IS FRAGILE.
BUT IT IS. CIVILIZATION IS ALWAYS FRAGILE. CIVILIZATION IS MORE THAN BUILDINGS, YOU SEE. IT'S AN ATTITUDE, A FEELING OF SAFETY.
AND THIS IS SUCH A DANGEROUS WORLD.
LINCOLN TUNNE

EXCUSE ME... BUT ARE YOU OKAY, MISS? YOU'RE NOT LOST OR SOMETHING, ARE YOU?
OOF!
EX-CUSE ME! DO YOU MIND NOT RUNNING UP MY BACKSIDE?!
WHAT THE HELL YOU DOING JUST STANDING THERE, JERK? TRYING TO GET A DATE OR WHAT?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU IMPLYING?!
I'M NOT IMPLYING-- I'M SAYING! I KNOW ALL ABOUT PERVERTS LIKE YOU...!
YOU SON-OF-A-!
WHAM

WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAK
WOULDJA LOOK-!
THUD
BLUD
WHY ARE THEY--?

HAW! C'MAHN! UPPERCUT! UPPERCUT!


STOP ENCOURAGING THEM!
KRAK

WHO THE HELL-- YOU THINK YOU'RE HITTING?!

KRAK
WHAM
POW!
GGCKKN!
THUD

SHE COMES FROM NORTHERN IRELAND AND ALL HER FAMILY DIED IN "THE TROUBLES."

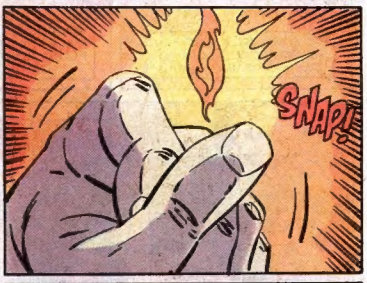
ALL SHE HAS IS HATE... A HATE FELT FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD. A FIERCE, EXULTANT HATE. AND HER... "TALENTS."

SHE IS NOT QUITE TEN YEARS OLD.

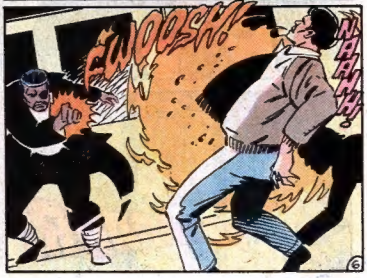
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA
HER CODENAME IS BADS.

NOW COME MEET AGNI.
SUBWAY-UPTOWN

AWAY FROM TRACKS
BROAAARR!


SNAP!

FWOOMP!
YAAAH!


SWOOSH!
NAAAH!

DRIVER
FASHH!
WOOOSH!
SHWOOMP!
VIC
STAND CLEAR
FOOOSH!
THIS IS AGNI.

WHERE'S McKEON? BET HE'S SLEPT LATE AGAIN.
LET'S SEE-- DO I WANT HIS BUTT AS FILET OR GROUND ROUND?
URRGK! GLAAAAGKK!
A THOUSAND YEARS MORE, O KALI.
GNEK
TEK

KOSMICHE!, ARE YOU RECEIVING? DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT TO DO?

...FINISH HERE...MEET AT...TIMES SQUARE...

GOOD, HERE'S YOUR BAG. SEE YOU SOON.

ANDERS! HEY! AM I LATE? SORRY!

THE WIFE SAYS I'LL BE LATE FOR MY OWN FUNER...

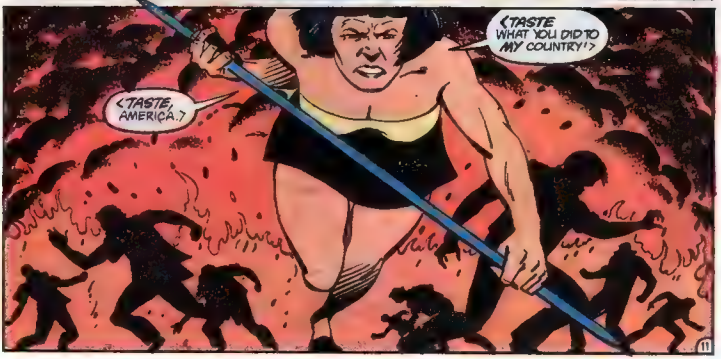
ALGH!
SNAP

SNEK

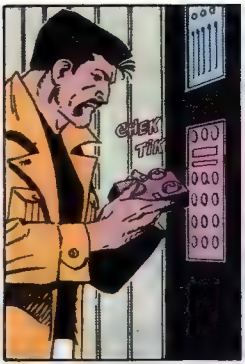
SYSTEM READY. KOSHCHEI PROCEEDS.
SYSTEM READY. KOSHCHEI PROCEEDS.
FIFTH AVENUE.
HEY!
WHO THE--!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--?!
HER NAME IS JACULI.
FINK
YAAAAAH!
SHOTLOCK
WHADOOM!

FING
FING
WOOOSH

BOOOM
BOOM
FOOM!
TAXI

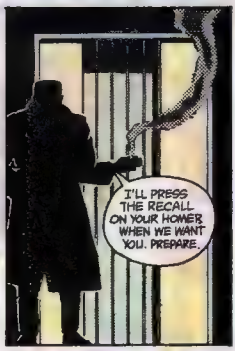

<TASTE AMERICA.>
<TASTE WHAT YOU DID TO MY COUNTRY!>

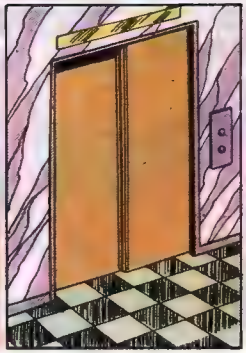
WORLD TRADE CENTER.


CHEK TIK

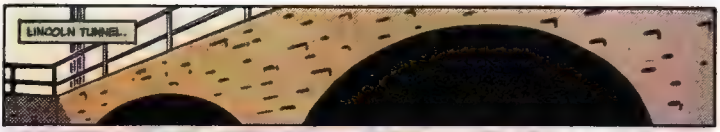
SAY MY NAME.
RUSTAM.
SAY YOUR NAME.
IFRIT.

STATE YOUR MISSION.
ENTER COMPUTER BANKS. WIPE MEMORY. DISRUPT TRADE. KILL ALL I FIND. REJOIN JIHAD.

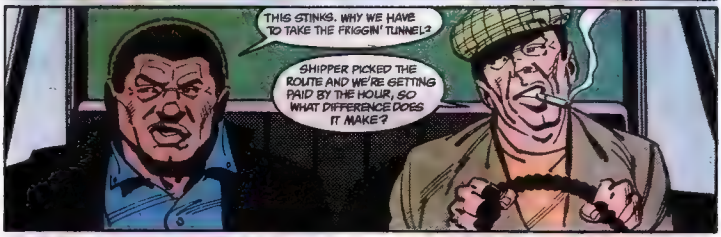

I'LL PRESS THE RECALL ON YOUR HOMER WHEN WE WANT YOU. PREPARE.

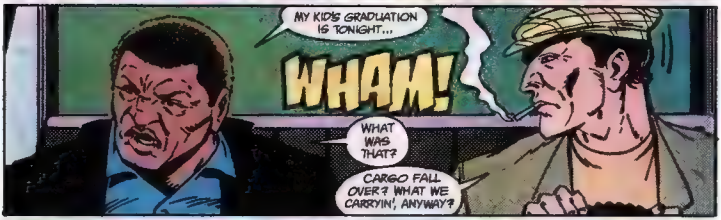


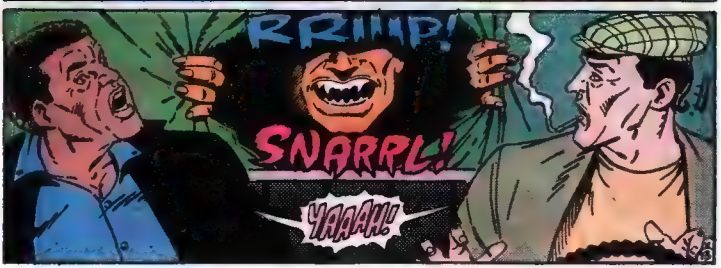
YAAAAAGH!


LINCOLN TUNNEL..

TAXI
RUSH HOUR.


THIS STINKS. WHY WE HAVE TO TAKE THE FRIGGIN' TUNNEL?
SHIPPER PICKED THE ROUTE AND WE'RE GETTING PAID BY THE HOUR, SO WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

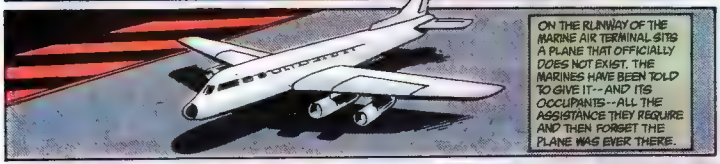

MY KID'S GRADUATION IS TONIGHT...
WHAM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
CARGO FALL OVER? WHAT WE CARRYIN', ANYWAY?


RRIIP!
SNARRL!
YAAAH!

THE MANTICORE HAS BEEN UNLEASHED!
SHCRANGK!
RRROARRR!
BRANG!
FFFFFIP
UUUIP! UP
SHWOMP!
BADOOOM!
14

SNARRRL!
ROARRRR
BOOOM!
HAWROOOOO!

LAGUARDIA AIRPORT.
TWA

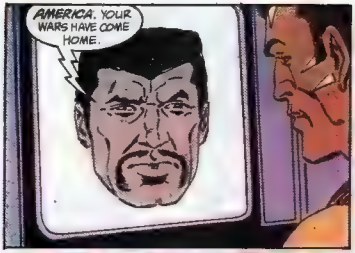

ON THE RUNWAY OF THE MARINE AIR TERMINAL SITS A PLANE THAT OFFICIALLY DOES NOT EXIST. THE MARINES HAVE BEEN TOLD TO GIVE IT -- AND ITS OCCUPANTS -- ALL THE ASSISTANCE THEY REQUIRE AND THEN FORGET THE PLANE WAS EVER THERE.

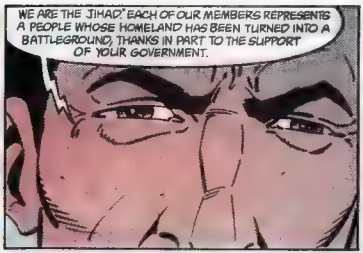
IF I CONTINUE TO ASSIST YOUR GROUP, YOU WILL, IN TURN, PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SO I CAN FIND A WAY BACK TO *META*?
THAT'S THE DEAL AS THE WALL OUTLINED IT.

NO DISRESPECT, BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH HELP *YOUR* TECHNOLOGY WILL BE. BY METAN STANDARDS, IT'S PRETTY *PRIMITIVE*.
IT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT. *YOUR* PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO KILL YOU ON SIGHT

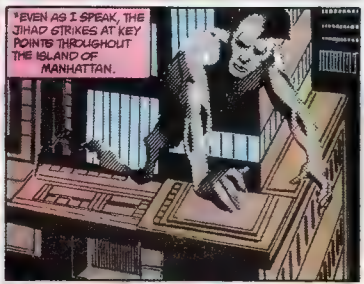
COLONEL! GOT A TRANSMISSION YOU BETTER LOOK AT!

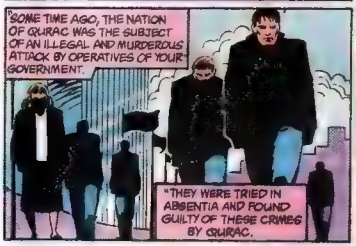
BELLE REVE JUST GOT THIS OFF A NETWORK NEWS FEED. JUST FINISHED PLAYING.
THE ANCHOR GOT SHOT DEAD AND *THIS* GUY TOOK OVER.
RUSTAM!

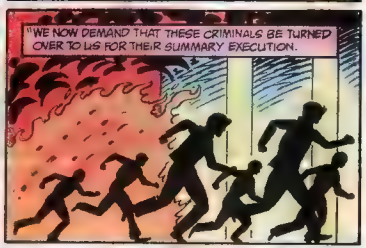

AMERICA. YOUR WARS HAVE COME HOME.


WE ARE THE JIHAD. EACH OF OUR MEMBERS REPRESENTS A PEOPLE WHOSE HOMELAND HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A BATTLEGROUND, THANKS IN PART TO THE SUPPORT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT.

"TONIGHT, YOU WILL TASTE THE FEAR AND DESTRUCTION OUR HOMELANDS HAVE KNOWN.


"EVEN AS I SPEAK, THE JIHAD STRIKES AT KEY POINTS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN.


"SOME TIME AGO, THE NATION OF QURAC WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN ILLEGAL AND MURDEROUS ATTACK BY OPERATIVES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT.
"THEY WERE TRIED IN ABSENTIA AND FOUND GUILTY OF THESE CRIMES BY QURAC.

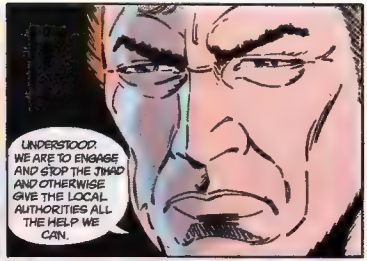

"WE NOW DEMAND THAT THESE CRIMINALS BE TURNED OVER TO US FOR THEIR SUMMARY EXECUTION.

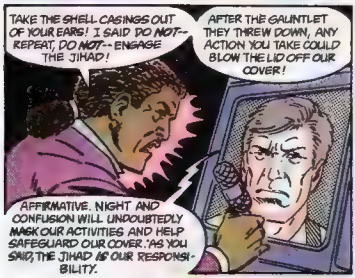
"WE WILL CONTINUE OUR ACTIVITIES UNTIL OUR DEMANDS ARE MET OR WE OURSELVES ARE DEAD. THE BLOOD NOW BEING SHED IS ENTIRELY ON YOUR HANDS, AMERICA."

GO SPEAKS THE JIHAD.
GET ME BELLE REVE.

YOU'RE FOR THE BRIDGES NEXT?
YES. HAVE YOU DONE THE MAYOR YET?
NO. THE BROADCAST HAD PRIORITY.
DO IT NOW THEN RENDEZVOUS AT TIMES SQUARE.
A MOMENT.
BRAAAAAP!
YAAAAA!
DOES NOT THE THUGGEE SECT DEMAND YOU BURY YOUR SACRIFICES? WE HAVE LITTLE TIME.
WITH THIS, I NEED LITTLE.
BOOM!
THE PICKAX HEAD IS A HIGH EXPLOSIVE, DETONATES ON CONTACT.
WE THUGGEES MUST KEEP PACE WITH THE TIMES.

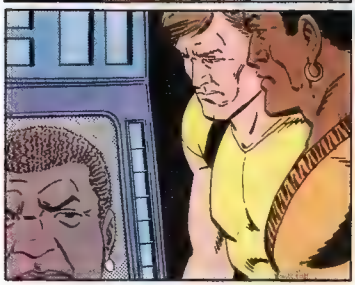
YOU'RE TO GET YOUR BUTTS BACK TO BELLE REVE ON THE DOUBLE, COLONEL! LET THE LOCALS HANDLE THE JIHAD!

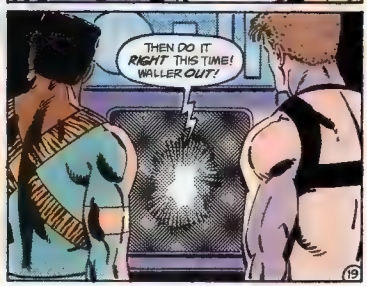

UNDERSTOOD. WE ARE TO ENGAGE AND STOP THE JIHAD AND OTHERWISE GIVE THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ALL THE HELP WE CAN.


TAKE THE SHELL CASINGS OUT OF YOUR EARS! I SAID DO NOT-- REPEAT, DO NOT-- ENGAGE THE JIHAD!
AFTER THE GAUNTLET THEY THREW DOWN, ANY ACTION YOU TAKE COULD BLOW THE LID OFF OUR COVER!
AFFIRMATIVE. NIGHT AND CONFUSION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MASK OUR ACTIVITIES AND HELP SAFEGUARD OUR COVER. AS YOU SAID, THE JIHAD IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

YOU'RE GOING TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, CORRECT?
THAT IS AN AFFIRMATIVE.

LET ME TALK TO TURNER
I HEARD THE SAME THINGS THE COLONEL DID, MRS. WALLER.




THEN DO IT RIGHT THIS TIME! WALLER OUT!

FIND OUT APPROXIMATE JIHAD LOCATIONS FROM THE POLICE BANDS.
WE'LL GET OUR MARINE "HOSTS" TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION

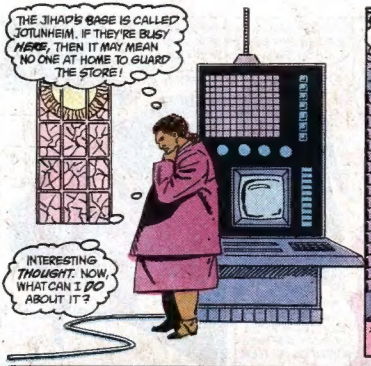
HEY, BEFORE YOU GO OFF AND GET YOURSELF KILLED, HOWZABOUT TAKIN' THIS DOO-HICKEY OFF MY WRIST?

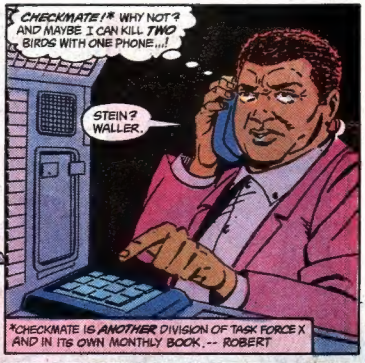
AFTER WE'VE DEALT WITH THE JIHAD.
NOT WITH ME! WE HAD A DEAL! I HELP YOU WITH THOSE META BOZOS AND I GET TURNED LOOSE!
I DONE MY PART! THAT'S IT! I'M THROUGH!

YOU'RE THROUGH WHEN I SAY YOU'RE THROUGH!
GET THIS STRAIGHT, SLEAZE-BALL--I'M NOT YOUR FRIEND, I'M NOT YOUR PAROLE OFFICER, I'M NOT YOUR SOCIAL WORKER, AND I DON'T HAVE TO BE NICE TO YOU!

NOW YOU DO AS YOU'RE TOLD OR I'LL BLOW OFF YOUR ARM MY-SELF!

EVER SINCE THAT KARIN SHEILA DIED, THE COLONEL'S BEEN A LOT LESS HUMOROUS.
MAAAYBE I'LL TEASE SOMEONE ELSE FER A WHILE.

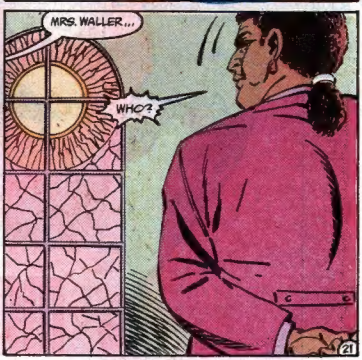

THE JIHAD'S BASE IS CALLED JOTUNHEIM. IF THEY'RE BUSY HERE, THEN IT MAY MEAN NO ONE AT HOME TO GUARD THE STORE!
INTERESTING THOUGHT. NOW, WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?


CHECKMATE!* WHY NOT? AND MAYBE I CAN KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE PHONE...!
STEIN? WALLER.
*CHECKMATE IS ANOTHER DIVISION OF TASK FORCE X AND IN ITS OWN MONTHLY BOOK.-- ROBERT

YEAH, I SEEN 'EM. NO, THE SQUAD'S DEALING WITH THAT. WE'VE GOT INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS BUILDING-- FORGET ABOUT THE QURAC MISSION FOR NOW! GOT ME? RIGHT.

SOMETHING ELSE I WANT YOUR END TO DO. DIG UP ANY AND ALL DIRT YOU CAN GET ON DEREK TOLLIVER AND SENATOR JOE CRAY.
NO, I'M TRYING TO KEEP US FROM GETTING POLITICAL! JUST DO IT, OKAY?--BUT HARRY, KEEP IT ON THE QT. RIGHT. I'LL BE BY LATER ON.

CHECKMATE WASN'T FORMED UNTIL AFTER TOLLIVER GOT KICKED OUT AS NSC-TASK FORCE X LIAISON! HE WON'T KNOW DIDDLEY ABOUT THEM!
AND IF I CAN BUY US SOME TIME, CHECKMATE MAY GET THE POOP WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HIS NEW TRAP!


MRS. WALLER...
WHO?

NIGHTSHADE, EVE EDEN.
I HEARD WHAT WAS GOING DOWN IN NEW YORK. I WANT TO JOIN THE OTHERS.
MS EDEN -- NIGHTSHADE -- YOU LOOK LIKE HELL. AND I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN GET YOU THERE IN TIME FOR YOU TO DO ANY GOOD.
SEND ME OR I'LL RESIGN AND GO ON MY OWN.
IN A WAY, JIHAD IS ALSO MY GROUP. BECAUSE OF YOU. I WANT TO SEE IF I CAN STOP THEM WITHOUT KILLING THEM.
TRY TO KEEP THEM FROM KILLING YOU WHILE YOU'RE AT IT. WE'LL GET A JET TO FERRY YOU.
THANKS. I THINK.
I'M GONNA HAVE TO KICK SOMEBODY'S BUTT AGAIN AND SOON. EVERYBODY IN THE DAMN SQUAD IS IGNORING WHAT I TELL THEM!
RINGGG
WALLER? DEREK TOLLIVER. DEADLINE TIME.
GONNA HELP SENATOR GRAY GET RE-ELECTED? OR DO WE BLOW THE WHISTLE ON YOUR PRECIOUS SUICIDE SQUAD?
YOU WIN, TOLLIVER.
WE'LL DO IT.
NEXT:
MANHATTAN MASSACRE!

SUICIDE NOTES

L-3248

DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher
Dick Giordano, Vice Pres.-Executive Editor
Robert Greenberger, Editor
Richard Bruning, Art Director
Terri Cunningham, Mgr.-Editorial Admin.
Pat Bastienne, Mgr.-Editorial Coordinator
Bob Rozakis, Production Director
Paul Levitz, Executive Vice President
Joe Orlando, Vice Pres.-Creative Director
Bruce Bristow, Marketing Director
Matthew Ragone, Circulation Director
Patrick Caldon, Controller

Dear Bob,

It just gets better and better.

What made "Battle Lines" so good was that it bent the cliched super-hero slugfest on its ear.

It was *so* pleasing, for once, not to see the members of opposing good-guy teams just start slugging with no regard to past or present friendships or allegiances.

John Ostrander, however, is no hack. He did his homework well, making the meeting of J'onn J'onzz and Vixen truly poignant. And even better, he showed several of the participants actually interested in doing the job they came to do! Rocket Red consulting with Nemesis ... Black Canary asking the Bronze Tiger what's going on ... Nightshade and Captain Atom linking up ... Flag explaining the situation to Batman (okay, so it didn't turn out so well—at least he tried).

And now, since the Squad's cover is just about blown, what next? I don't know, but I can't wait to find out.

You guys can't do this weekly, can you?

Kelvin Childs
309 Curtis Street Apt. 12
Syracuse, NY 13208

Weekly? Isn't ACTION COMICS WEEKLY enough? John and Luke have a bit too much to do these days, but we'll try and come up with some more Squad-oriented projects before too much longer.

*****

Dear Suicide Squad,

After the groundwork was laid in JLI #13, I expected an extraordinary story in SUICIDE SQUAD #13. I got it. I especially like the interaction between the characters. This proved to be emotional, heated and humorous.

Vixen and Martian Manhunter were the two characters I most wanted to see. When the two characters were in the JLA, they became very close, and their confrontation was handled well. It would appear that the Manhunter is not as emotionless as he tries to appear.

In my opinion, Batman's behavior was irrational and childish. First of all, he wants the League to run off to Russia to save Nemesis, and then when he finds out that Nemesis is working with the Squad, he changes his mind. Then, of course, he provokes Flag into attacking him. Of course, to top it all off, he quits the JLI. Not that this surprises me when you consider his track record when it comes to working with groups.

One mistake I noticed in the story involved Captain Atom and Nightshade. As of CAPTAIN ATOM ANNUAL #1, Captain Atom no longer works for the government. The two characters' conversation stated otherwise.

One final note. I believe that Duchess has something to do with Bernadeth and Lashina of the Female Furies, and the events in SUICIDE SQUAD #3.

Darcey McLaughlin
PO Box 245
Blackville, New Brunswick EOC 1CO
CANADA

Actually, Darcey, Captain Atom promised President Reagan that he would continue to be a mole in the JLI for the American government, so the comment remains accurate.

*****

Dear Bob,

I have just gotten back into comics after a several-year absence from buying them. I recently picked up JLI #13 and that led me to buy my first issue of SUICIDE SQUAD. Let me say that I am thoroughly impressed! The Squad has some of the qualities that I have begun to admire in the new JLI. The humor that is presented is a refreshing breath of air, and the depth of the characters makes them even more interesting. Thanks for giving me something worth shelling out 75¢ for.

I just have some additional questions and comments. You stated that the Squad was made up of flawed individuals. Just how are Flag and Nightshade flawed? Okay, maybe I can see how Flag might be messed up, but Nightshade? She could dim my lights *anytime!* Since I only have one issue, could you tell me who the mountain woman in fatigues is? She looks like Big Barda, Mr. Miracle's wife. Is she? Also, how about a new costume for Javelin? I really hate the one he has now.

Chris Ayers
Box 8284, MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Nightshade's entire life has been in the public eye these last few months, so we suspect by now you realize just how flawed Eve is. And Flag is well off the beaten path and descending faster and farther toward the abyss—what will happen to him? Oh, John and I have a few plans up our sleeves. You're close in thinking Duchess is Barda, since there is some linkage. The secret behind Duchess starts to unravel in issue #19, so do reserve a copy today. The Javelin isn't set for a comeback anytime soon, so a new costume is a decision for another day. By the way, welcome back!

*****

Dear Squad,

While comparing the covers of SUICIDE SQUAD and JLI, my eyes understandably were drawn to the logos. While studying SS's, I began thinking about the meaning behind the title. What exactly causes the high mortality rate involved in the missions the Squad undertakes? Who tackled these missions before Task Force X was established?

The answer to the first question ... lack of power, the second ... everyone else. Face it, this is one of the weaker teams in the DC Universe. Whether this is intentional or not, Mr. Ostrander has made the Squad into the most unpredictable, yet successful, teams in action today. Over the past eighteen months or so, you have employed quite a mix of powerful individuals, then either tempering their use within the book or immediately "terminating their membership." Examples of tempering would include Nightshade and Black Orchid, while the extermination option would apply to the likes of Blockbuster, Mindboggler, Multiplex, Killer Frost and the Parasite. More than likely, the dead villains had outlived their usefulness to their respective writers. Plastique, of course, is the exception to this rule, whose appearances in CAPTAIN ATOM prove this. Yet it is ironic that the least powerful members of the group seem to last the longest. More ironic is the wild card of the group, the unstable Enchantress, who seems to play one of the greater parts in these pages each month. In all, the real power behind this book is the government, and you guys who "talk" to us every 30 days.

Chris Hines
RR 1 Debert
Nova Scotia BOM 1GO
CANADA

Actually, Chris, Killer Frost has not died and is set for a return appearance in FIRESTORM, since she is quite popular there. As for the missions the Squad are assigned to, this

is the first time in a long while that the government has had any team to assign to missions that they deem important. It's quite unlikely a hero would have stopped William Hell or flown to Colombia to deal with Cujo.

*****

Dear Bob,

Oh boy. Here we go again. Two super-groups meet each other, battle each other and then realize that they are really on the same side and end up working together.

Seen it before. Usually kind of boring. And predictable.

But not in "Battle Lines."

That it *was* an exception to the rule demonstrates the value of this mag. The Suicide Squad is neither a typical super-hero group nor a typical super-villain group and thus does not fit into the same cubbyholes as most other super-groups do. First off, there was a legitimate reason for the JLI to be antagonistic toward the Squad. The JLI acts in a quasi-official capacity and the Squad was breaking into a government facility. Thus, there were definitely grounds for suspicion, to say the least! And since the Squad contains some known criminals, the JLI's aggressive response was quite rational. (Usually, two super-groups start off by fighting each other seemingly just because they don't know each other! If this was common social etiquette, the sidewalks of every city would be intense battlegrounds!)

However, because the Squad also has some good guys, there were ample reasons for some of the JLIers to try to negotiate with the Squad rather than continue to fight. So often in super-groups battles, after senselessly fighting for a while, the two sides come to a sudden and rather unbelievable (and poorly-motivated) truce.

Finally, the resolution made sense. Justice was done, but it was accomplished by a little finesse rather than by the brute force of the Powerful United Super-team formed by the two formerly adversarial groups.

And I see that Batman still has it in for the Squad. All I can say is: Keep at it, Batman! The moral dimensions of the Squad have faded into the background recently, and maybe Batman's crusade will help to return them to the thematic forefront. I'd like to see even more emphasis put on the Squad's personal problems and the attempts to solve them also. This further enhances the Squad's unique nature and reminds us just why most of the members are there—because they're messed-up individuals, one way or another.

T.M. Maple
Box 1272 Station B
Weston, Ontario M9L 2R9
CANADA

*****

Dear Squad,

SUICIDE SQUAD #13 was great! The guest appearance of the JLI was very humorous. I thought the issue would be a very serious one with devastating casualties on both sides. Boy, was I in for a shocker! The only serious confrontation was the battle between Flag and Batman. I don't know about anyone else, but I'm getting very tired of Flag. I'm glad Batman kicked his butt.

I'm glad Nemesis is finally out. Overall, it was a very different issue, one that I enjoyed.

I've been with SS since #1 and I love this series! I really like the offbeat characters, especially Captain Boomerang. Will he be getting the spin-off mini-series you keep mentioning?

I hope we see more of the personal lives behind the team. We all know what the captain is doing, but what are the other members doing in their "spare" time?

Some suggestions: Captain Cold, Catwoman, Poison Ivy, Black Spider, Flash, Killer Frost, and will we see what happened to Slipknot?

Tom Trout
No Address Given

We will reveal the details on the mini-series next month, so don't miss the issue.

Captain Cold is here and may be back in the future. Catwoman is a must but not until her mini-series concludes in early 1989 (check out the preview in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #611-#614!). Poison Ivy would be fun, but you'll have to content yourself with her role in the BLACK ORCHID mini-series coming in November. The others are good ideas, so we'll see.

*****

Dear Mr. Greenberger,

With issue #13, this series really started to come into focus. For the first time, John Ostrander had to write an issue where characterization and dialogue were more important than action, and he came through with flying colors. Additionally, he kept the fun flavor of the JLI intact, while allowing the Suicide Squad to retain its identity.

Luke McDonnell's layouts were as fresh as ever, yet special kudos should be given to Bob Lewis, who really tightened up Luke's pencils. I prefer this more focused look and hope its evolution continues.

As for the Squad itself, I'm hoping that the team returns to its primarily villain-based core. Although Speedy and Vixen may be good guest stars, as it stands the Squad has too many super-heroes. This book is at its best when reluctant villains are forced into duty.

Mark Lucas
66 Cleary Court Apt. 902
San Francisco, CA 94109

An interesting observation, Mark. Let's address this question to the audience: Should there be more or less emphasis on super-heroes in the mix?

*****

Dear Bob,

I knew it would only be a matter of time. After seeing Batman pop up here a few months back, it was only a matter of time before he involved the JLI. The pairings were interesting and the best by far was the talk between Vixen and J'onn J'onzz. Like most fans, I too felt that the last incarnation of the JLA stank, but after reading Vixen's feelings I started to feel bad. I feel bad because even though they may not have had the best stories or characters, they did the best with what they had. It isn't much fun walking around and people think you're a joke.

The Captain Atom/Nightshade encounter was interesting as well. Both these characters know more than they can tell their companions and the way they try to figure out how to diffuse the situation was good. But the best pairing was that of Batman and Flag.

It seems only natural that the leaders of the two teams would go at it, but it was a pleasant change to see Flag and Bats try to talk it out first. When groups meet up, there is usually a fight before anybody knows what is going on. Considering that Flag's team comprised several villains, I assumed that a discussion was out of the question.

The best part of the whole issue, though, was Boomerang having a laugh at seeing Batman and Flag beat up on each other. These are the things that most villains only dream of seeing. I'm glad the Captain had a good seat for the show.

Bob Felber
60 Ruskin Avenue
Woonsocket, RI 02895

*****

COMING ATTRACTIONS

The Jihad is back, restaffed and deadlier than before. They have brought Manhattan to its knees and all that stands between them and utter genocide is the Suicide Squad. Tired and understaffed, can they defeat the Jihad, or will they die trying? You've asked for this story and here it is, in 22 very packed pages. Don't miss it!

Until next time, stock up on bandages and keep smiling!

—Bob Greenberger